

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 873

SHORT TITLE: Representative Robert Hunter

SPONSOR(S): Raise Age of Undisciplined Juveniles

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes (X)	No ()	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 1997-98</u>	<u>FY 1998-99</u>	<u>FY 1999-00</u>	<u>FY 2000-01</u>	<u>FY 2001-02</u>
<u>Alternative #1</u>					
<u>Intensive Supervision</u>					
Recurring	\$3,493,843	\$4,656,388	\$4,656,388	\$4,656,388	\$4,656,388
Nonrecurring	\$127,555				
Total	\$3,621,398	\$4,656,388	\$4,656,388	\$4,656,388	\$4,656,388
<u>Alternative #2</u>					
<u>Regular Supervision</u>					
Recurring	\$1,476,779	\$1,968,164	\$1,968,164	\$1,968,164	\$1,968,164
Nonrecurring	\$53,915				
Total	\$1,530,694	\$1,968,164	\$1,968,164	\$1,968,164	\$1,968,164
POSITIONS: Intake, Regular, and Intensive Court Counselors					
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: Judicial Department, Juvenile Services Division					
EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1997					

BILL SUMMARY: *TO RAISE THE AGE OF UNDISCIPLINED JUVENILES.* Amends definition of undisciplined juvenile found in GS 7A-517(28) to include a juvenile more than 16 and less than 18 who is beyond the disciplinary control of the juvenile's parent, guardian or custodian. Makes other conforming changes. Applies to acts occurring on or after Oct. 1, 1997.

4/7/97: House committee substitute replaces 1st edition. Makes technical changes only.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY: Judicial Department

Number of Juveniles:

The Juvenile Services Division estimates that there would be an additional 3,541 juveniles referred for intake as a result of this bill. Of these 3,541 juveniles, it is estimated that 1,332 would be referred to court and require supervision services provided by judicial court counselors.

Costs of Supervision

This note presents two alternatives for determining the fiscal impact of this bill. Alternative #1 outlines funding needed to provide intensive supervision services, while Alternative #2 summarizes funding for regular supervision services.

Alternative #1 – Intensive Supervision

The Division recommends intensive supervision as its preferred alternative for the estimated 1,332 juveniles who would be referred to court under this legislation. Current research and prior experience with this age group in the 1970's indicates that intensive supervision is more effective than regular supervision due to lower caseloads and more family involvement (no more than 10 cases at one time; contact 3 times a week). The average number of juveniles served by each intensive counselor in 1996 was 15. Thus, an estimated 89 additional intensive counselors would be needed at a cost of \$3,205,691 recurring (positions effective 10/1/97) and \$117,035 nonrecurring for FY 1997-98 and \$4,272,356 recurring for FY 1998-99.

Alternative #2 – Regular Supervision

This alternative outlines costs associated with providing these juveniles with regular supervision (no more than 30 cases at one time) rather than intensive supervision. The average number of juveniles served by each regular counselor in 1996 was 40. Thus, using this alternative, an additional 33 regular counselors would be needed at a cost of \$1,188,627 recurring and \$43,395 nonrecurring for FY 1997-98 and \$1,584,132 recurring for FY 1998-99.

Other Costs Associated with Both Alternatives #1 and #2

Intake Counselors

It is estimated that an additional 3,541 juveniles would be referred to intake as a result of this legislation. The average number of juveniles per intake counselor in 1996 was 460. Maintaining this caseload, the 3,541 cases would require an additional 8 intake counselors. The costs for these counselors would be \$288,152 recurring (positions effective 10/1/97) and \$10,520 nonrecurring for FY 1997-98 and \$384,032 recurring for FY 1998-99.

Court Time

There would be some additional court workload as a result of the proposed bill. The Judicial Department estimates that hearings for the estimated 1,332 juveniles referred to court would last approximately 30 minutes each, totaling 666 hours of court time in a year. The Fiscal Research Division believes this additional workload could be absorbed within existing resources statewide.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION

733-4910

PREPARED BY: Charles Perusse

APPROVED BY: Tom L. Covington **TomC**

DATE: May 9, 1997



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